

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 MC-02 AID-20 IGA-02 EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 746

INFO USCINCEUR PRIORITY

SECDEF PRIORITY

CNO PRIORITY

CSA PRIORITY

CSAF PRIORITY

S E C R E T RABAT 5373

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI MO

SUBJ: TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM TO MOROCCO

REF: JCS MESSAGE 080623Z DEC 73

1. NAMES OF MEMBERS OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM AS LISTED
REFTEL PASSED ON GOM MORNING DECEMBER 11. IN AFTERNOON
I WAS SUMMONED TO PALACE TO MEET WITH KING TO DISCUSS
DETAILS. KING TAKING PERSONAL INTEREST IN TEAM AND
OBVIOUSLY PLANS SEE MEMBERS MORE THAN ONE. IT IS ALSO
EVIDENT FROM HIS REMARKS THAT MOROCCANS HAVE WHOLE QUESTION
THEIR MILITARY POSTURE UNDER REVIEW AND THAT THEY SEE
ALGERIA AS PRIMARY THREAT. FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL
POINTS HE MADE.

2. SOVIETS WERE LOSERS IN RECENT ARAB-ISRAEL WAR AND
MASSIVE QUANTITIES OF SOVIET ARMS NOW POURING INTO
ALGERIA. FOR WHAT PURPOSE? ALGERIANS HAVE UNLIMITED
ACCESS TO ARMS. MOROCCANS DO NOT. SOMEHOW BALANCE MUST
BE RESTORED. MOROCCO MUST ACQUIRE MORE ARMS, PARTICULARLY

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FOR LAND DEFENSE. THIS IS WHY HE REQUESTED SPECIALIST

IN MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT AND APCS. KING COULD ASSURE ME PERSONALLY THAT NO ARMS ACQUIRED BY MOROCCO WOULD BE USED AGAINST FRIENDS OF US.

3. REQUIREMENTS: MOROCCANS WANTED TO PLAN AND PURCHASE THEIR REQUIREMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO ARRANGE PAYMENT EXPEDITIOUSLY, WITH EMPHASIS ON DOING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ON THEIR OWN IN LATTER REGARD. (KING DID NOT SAY WHERE MONEY COMING FROM, BUT MAY HAVE IN MIND INCREASED REVENUES FROM PHOSPHATE EXPORTS.) TEAM SHOULD BE PREPARED WITH ALL POSSIBLE DOCUMENTATION.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS: KING WOULD RECEIVE MEMBERS OF TEAM MORNING DECEMBER 17. HE PLANNED PUT OFFICE AT ETAT MAJOR AT ITS DISPOSAL SO HE COULD DROP BY TO DISCUSS MATTERS FROM TIME TO TIME DURING ITS STAY. HE REALIZED THAT TEAM WOULD ONLY BE HERE SHORT TIME AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO WORK QUICKLY. HE HAD ALERTED ETAT MAJOR TO DO ALL NECESSARY TO FACILITATE ITS TAKS.

5. COMMENT: FROM KING'S REMARKS IT APPEARS POSSIBLE THAT TEAM MAY BE UNABLE COMPLETE ALL WORK REQUIRED DURING PERIOD ALLOTTED AND THAT ONE OR MORE OF TEAM MAY HAVE TO RETURN, PERHAPS AFTER CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, FOR FOLLOW-UP AND FURTHER STUDY.

6. FOR OUR OWN BACKGROUND WOULD BE USEFUL HAVE UP-TO-DATE ASSESSMENT FROM WASHINGTON AS TO RELATIVE STRENGTHS MOROCCAN AND ALGERIAN ARMED FORCES, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON RECENT ALGERIAN ACQUISITION SOVIET ARMS.
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